Prohibition of child labour in the departmental schemes

†3761. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether prohibition of child labour has been included in the plan of the department;

(b) whether directions regarding inspection of all the dangerous and banned institutions for child labour and initiating legal action against employers for employing child labourers in States have been issued under the scheme; and

(c) if so, the institutions inspected by the labour department during 2005-2006 and the action taken against the guilty employers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children in 15 Occupations and 57 Processes and it regulates the working conditions in occupations which are not declared as hazardous. Instructions are issued, from time to time, to the State Governments who are the appropriate Governments for the strict enforcement of the same for the areas coming under their Jurisdiction.

(c) On the basis of reports received from the State Governments, 1,65,400 inspections were carried out in the year 2005-06, 15,797 violations detected and 7,716 prosecutions launched.

Self employed women in country

†3762. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 334 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st March, 2007 and state:

(a) what is the definition of self employed;

(b) whether this definition is all pervasive;

(c) the number of women giving a helping hand in sowing, reaping, weeding, crushing, harvesting, etc. in agriculture sector;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the number of such women labour force in 1999-2000 and 2004-05;

(e) the contribution of the said labour force in the national income; and

(f) in what manner Government define this contribution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Persons who operate their own farm or non-farm enterprises or are engaged independently in a profession or trade on own-account or with one or a few partners are deemed to be self-employed in household enterprises.

(c) and (d) The estimated number of women workers engaged in different agricultural operations in rural areas was 2,72,40,738, during 2004-05 survey. This figure was 2,93,08,675 during 1999-2000 survey.

(e) Gender-wise information on the contribution of women employed in agriculture sector to national income is not maintained.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e).

Recruitment of domestic helpers

3763. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of private agencies are recruiting domestic helpers through advertisement in papers; and

(b) if so, whether Government would consider for compulsory registration of those private players, as well as the domestic helpers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Private Sector employers are free to make recruitment from any convenient source.

(b) To safeguard the interest of job-seekers, Ministry of Labour & Employment have issued guidelines to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to consider regulation of the functioning of Private Placement Agencies, as per local needs.